

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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April 1, 2008

Many Thanks!

I want to say “Thank You” to everyone for their help during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. While it may be impossible to include everyone, here are a few of the people whose willingness to share their gifts made this such a meaningful and wonderful time in the life of the church.

- ★ Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for folding bulletins and setting up for communion
- ★ Fran Gallimore, Betty Gross, Carol Crawford, all the people who prepared food for our Lenten Midweek Meals and everyone who helped set up and clean up
- ★ Jeff Birch, Sandy Birch, Keith Gay, Jennie Hodge, Olivia Hodge, Lori Anne Kirk, Dianne Krallman, Joanne Pascoe, Becca Perez, Ted Peterson, Alice Schneider, Hank Schneider, Doug Smiley, Fred Spengler, Kris Wertz, Sandie Worley for serving as readers for the Palm Sunday and Good Friday Services
- ★ Donita Moore, Brandy Buckles, the St. Michael Choir, John Krallman, Doug Smiley, Nancy Franz, Tacey Apisa, Carol Bland, Katie Katz and Becca Perez, your willingness to share your musical talents enhanced and strengthened our worship together
- ★ All those who served as ushers and greeters
- ★ Jody Smiley for putting together a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the youth and Jaid Moore for helping to hide the eggs
- ★ Lori Anne Kirk for ordering, delivering and arranging the Easter Lilies
- ★ Jim and Judy Clemens for repairing and setting up the Floral Cross
- ★ Bob Brown for putting up our roadside sign announcing the Easter Service
- ★ Wanda Pascoe for doing such a wonderful job keeping our facilities clean
- ★ Sandy Birch and Suzanne Gay, whose behind the scenes contributions help others to serve God more effectively

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

Thank you to Fran Gallimore for serving as a substitute 9 AM Pianist; Margaret Larsen and Linda Elliott for helping with the March newsletter mailing; Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett for creating our Steward Ship in the narthex; Dave and Ann Surface, Lori Anne Kirk, Doug Smiley and Sandy Birch who served Easter dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported supplies for Sunday School and Youth Nights, insurance costs, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In March, we contributed to eight electric bills. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need. Kroger Cares gift cards are still available for purchase for \$25. Five percent (5%) of all purchases using the gift card are deposited to the Justice and Mercy Fund. See Sandy Birch or Linda Elliott after church services to purchase a card.

A New Partnership – Food Lion Shop & Share

We have also partnered with Food Lion to have a portion of our grocery purchases returned to the Justice and Mercy Fund each quarter. All we have to do is register our Food Lion MVP card numbers. A space will be provided on the April *St. Michael Welcome forms* to record the ten digit number found on the back of your MVP customer card.

St. Michael Adds a Flute Choir

Our thanks to Donita Moore, Carol Bland, Katie Katz, Becca Perez, and Tacey Apisa for sharing their talent and beautiful flute selections with us during the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Spring Clean Up Day

St. Michael's annual Spring Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, April 12 beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your garden tools and come help prepare the grounds for spring and summer.



Cruise on the St. Michael Steward Ship

Thank you to all who have completed and returned their **Time and Talent surveys** for 2008-2009. We are truly good stewards of God's gifts as we share those gifts to make ministry happen at St. Michael.

Additional copies of the survey are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and can be returned in April. You can also complete the survey on-line on St. Michael's website. Welcome aboard the St. Michael Steward Ship!

Some thank you notes

The family of Thelma Hylton wishes to express our thanks to everyone for your kind support - the cards, food, and your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Dear Friends, Thank you for your recent donations of Cleaning supplies and Easter baskets for children and adults to the Women's Resource Center. Your support helps us provide services to people who have experienced violence here in the New River Valley. ...It takes a community of caring individuals who work together to accomplish a lofty mission such as ours - to create a community free of domestic and sexual violence. ... Thank you for joining in our work.

Sincerely, Pat Brown, Executive Director

Thank you very much for your \$50 donation to be used for heaters on the Pine ridge Reservation.

Susan Allgood for One Spirit

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Jamestown Scholarship Fund. There are many children who will benefit from your contribution. This trip to Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Busch Gardens is a wonderful trip that allows the students to experience, first hand, the part of Virginia History they study throughout 4th grade. Thank you again for this wonderful donation.

Allison Dinkel and the 4th Grade Teachers at Kipps Elementary

The Roanoke Rescue Mission appreciates the recent donation of six large bags

and boxes of used boys and mens clothing and two large boxes of shampoos, soaps and other personal grooming items.

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April Servants

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Acolytes	Sarah Crowder	Will Sharpe	Matthew Pasier	Katy McGuigan
Altar Care	The Crowder family			
Comm. Assts.	Daniel Crowder		Kris Wertz	
Christ's Kids	Kris Wertz	Andrea Robinson	Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg
Youth Servants	Andrew Bales	MaKayla Dowdy	Michelle Pasier	Katherine Berg
9 a.m. Greeters	Sandie and Gary Worley		Hodge family	
11 a.m. Greeters	Bob and Peggy Brown			
Lay Readers	Lorin Crowder	Carrie Mayer	Doug Smiley	Katie Katz
9 a.m. Worship Asst.	Jen Daskal	Ted Peterson	Lori Anne Kirk	Keith Gay

<i>Ushers</i>	Don Linkous Ray Howell Jeff Birch David Hillis	Dickie Shepherd James Pascoe Jeff Robinson Randy Robinson	Ben Simmers Jay Nagle Roscoe Turman Burn Gross	Philip Isenhour Mickey McGuigan Alice and Hank Schneider
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Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter baskets for the Salvation Army and the children sheltered by the Women’s Resource Center. We assembled 48 baskets including some special baskets for mothers at the Resource Center.



The Easter basket assemblers



The April meeting will be held at the home of Betty Gross (1705 Hawthorne Ridge in Blacksburg) on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. Amy Woods will lead a program on women’s health issues. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995 if you need a ride or directions to Betty’s home.

The **Sisters in Christ Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, May 4**, following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program. A love offering in honor of Betty Gross, Thelma Hylton and Jane Lane, our WELCA “founding mothers” will be collected for a special Roanoke College Scholarship.

Remember the Food Bank: April is cookies and crackers month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Womens Resource Center: In April, donations of toilet paper will be continued.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship extended to April 15

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship. Thanks to the congregation’s generous gifts in 2007, \$2,100 in scholarship funds are available for individuals to pursue

studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

Happy Go Lucky Luncheon

We will gather together on Thursday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. for social time and a potluck luncheon at noon. Our program will be a brief history of Blacksburg led by Tammy Wright, a long-time resident of the area. Pictured to the right is Stevan Jackson, a musician (ethnomusicologist) who used a wide variety of instruments to weave together stories and songs relating to the history of Appalachian music. Stevan met with us in December and March.



The O.K.s (Older Kids) go traveling....



With our input, six (6!) super bus trips have been planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this year. The adventures begin in May and include a tour of WDBJ TV station, the play “Idols of the King” (Elvis and his blue suede shoes) at the Mill Mountain Theater, the Virginia Highlands Festival in Abington, Gospel singing in the mountains, an excursion to Pearisburg (yes, Pearisburg!), and a visit to the Danville Lutheran church where Chrismons originated. All members of St. Michael (not just Older Kids) and our friends and family are welcome to participate. A minimum of 8 travelers is required with a maximum of 20 for each trip.

Our first adventure will be Thursday, May 15, to WDBJ. We will have the unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and take in the production of “Your Hometown Station” news. We’ll have lunch at the Roanoker Restaurant and visit the downtown Farmers Market. The cost of the trip is \$9 plus the cost of lunch and the registration deadline is May 8.

Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for all six trips are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

St. Michael will also sponsor a **trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater on Sunday, November 30, for the annual Christmas show.** The cost will be \$36 for the show and four-course lunch and we’ve already reserved the best seats in the house. Let’s just hope we won’t be snowed/iced out this year as we were last year – twice!

Softball Season begins



The team invites everyone out to the Tom’s Creek softball field this spring for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans

always help the team play better. The April games will be announced in the Sunday bulletins when the schedule is set by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Youth Night on April 9 and 23



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, April 9 and 23.

Kid's Night, led by Jody Smiley (esmiley@vt.edu), will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Confirmation for youth from 6th through 8th grade is taught by Pastor John and offers a chance to have fun while learning more about what we believe as people of God.

The **Senior High Youth Group** for 9th through 12th grade is led by Carrie Mayer (cmayer@mail.mcps.org) and provides an opportunity for fun and service.

Come and be a part of POWER LAB Vacation Bible School June 8 through 12



Christian Questions, Lutheran Answers - Adult Sunday School Class

The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday morning. Each week will focus on a different question. In April, the questions discussed will be:

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| April 6 | How Do We Know the Will of God? |
| April 13 | What Do We Believe about the End of the World? |
| April 20 | Do Lutherans Have to Worry about Being "Left Behind"? |
| April 27 | What Does the Holy Spirit Do? |

Welcoming New Members on April 27

St. Michael will be officially welcoming new members into the life and ministry of the congregation on Sunday, April 27 at both services. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

Dinner with Friends Gatherings on April 24 and May 17

The Dinner with Friends group for 20, 30 and 40 somethings has scheduled two spring gatherings. The first gathering will be at the home of Ted and Angela Peterson on Saturday, April 24 at 6 p.m. and the second gathering will be at the home of Jeff and

Andrea Robinson on May 17 at 6 p.m. Child care will be provided at the church. Check the bulletin for more information.

Care of Creation Toolbox

Earth Day is April 22! Take a moment that day to give thanks for the beautiful creation God has given us. Earth Week is April 13-19. Visit the National Environmental Education Week website at eeweek.org to find a number of exciting activities.

Virginia Synod Assembly in June

Each year, St. Michael sends representatives to the Virginia Synod Assembly at Roanoke College. The Assembly conducts the official business for the Synod, including electing officers and board representatives and approving the Synod Spending Plan. If you are interested in attending this year (June 6-8) with Pastor John, please talk to Jim Clemens.

Relay for Life

The Montgomery County Relay for Life is taking place on Friday, May 16 at the Christiansburg High School track to raise awareness and funds to fight cancer. Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz (951-1393) will be happy to accept your donation and/or to sign you up to participate.

Free Tables and Chairs

Over the last few years, St. Michael has replaced many of the old metal chairs and heavy wooden tables with new, more comfortable chairs and light-weight, sturdy tables. If you can use a few of the old green chairs or wooden tables at your house or if you know a community group that could use them, please talk to Pastor John or Fran Shepherd. The Council would like to give away all these old tables and chairs since they are no longer needed by the Congregation.

Easter at St. Michael

